



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Norfolk District

Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program

Fact Sheet

February 2001

Nansemond River Beachfront Removal Action

The Army Corps is planning a removal action in an 88-foot stretch of the Nansemond River beachfront behind the GE plant at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) site in Suffolk, Virginia. The purpose of this action is to remove two types of slag material that have been encountered, including:

Slag is the refuse left after smelting.

- 1) Large pieces of metallic slag containing small 3-inch by 1-inch cylindrical objects which could contain low levels of explosive materials. (see Figure 1)
- 2) Large pieces of slag with a layered appearance containing less iron content. (see Figure 2)

The removal action will also address 265 feet of the Nansemond River beach south of the main removal site which contains smaller pieces of slag debris.

The Army Corps has contracted with Plexus Scientific Corporation to perform the removal action at the Nansemond River beachfront. The crew will access the site via an existing gate. No access road improvements are anticipated. The proposed plan is to remove all slag material on the beach and the bluff. The removal action will reach a depth of 2 to 3 feet. Following removal of the debris, Plexus will perform a geophysical (magnetometer) study to confirm that all slag has been removed. The large stone shown in Figure 2 will be moved as needed to remove slag material.

Both the Army Corps and EPA have performed sampling in this area. Sample results indicate low levels of trinitrotoluene

(TNT) and degradation products, low levels of metals (mainly iron, arsenic, and lead) and low levels of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). PAHs are by-products of the combustion process and are also found in pressure-treated wood structures such as old bulkheads and pilings.



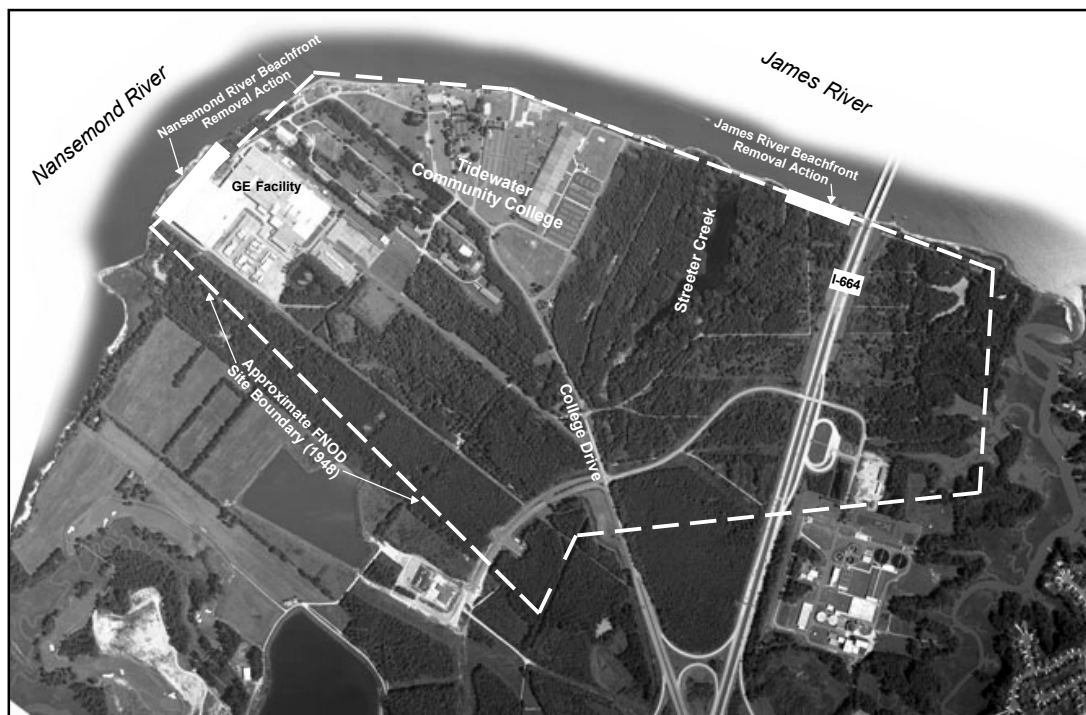
Figure 1: Slag materials with pen added for scale

Most of the contamination is believed to be contained in the slag material. Although no explosives have been encountered at the Nansemond River beachfront, the cylindrical objects in the slag could contain low levels of explosive materials. Most likely the explosive materials were destroyed during the creation of the slag.



Figure 2: Layered Slag Material

Nansemond River Beachfront Removal Action Aerial Map



This aerial map of the FNOD site shows the location of the Nansemond River beachfront removal action.

What's Next?

After the removal action and confirmatory geophysics survey are completed, the Corps will evaluate the site using the site screening process to determine what additional work if any is required at this site. The site screening process has been jointly developed in consultation with EPA and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. When the removal work is completed, this site will be regraded to its original contour.

Community Input

The Army Corps is interested in incorporating community input into the planning process for this site. All comments and concerns should be addressed to Ken Hafner or Keri Robertson.

Contact Information

For more information about the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot project, please contact the following people:

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Information Repository

Information about the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot project is available for public review at the Information Repository:

Tidewater Community College Library
Information Desk
7000 College Drive
Portsmouth, VA

Library Hours:
8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday
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